

Claims

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We Claim:

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1. A package for a product comprising:
  - 5 a first side wall;
  - a second side wall wherein the first side wall and the second side wall are bonded together on edges to form a pouch having a space therein for storing a product;
  - a recloseable feature disposed on inside surfaces of the side walls wherein the side walls are sealed together on an end of the package; and
  - 10 a score line in at least one side wall from a first edge to a second edge of the at least one side wall wherein the score line traces a path from above the recloseable feature at said first edge to below the recloseable feature between the edges when the pouch is oriented such that the recloseable feature is on a top side of the pouch.
  2. The package of claim 1 wherein the recloseable feature is a recloseable zipper.
  - 15 3. The package of claim 1 wherein the package is hermetically sealed on all sides.
  4. The package of claim 1 further comprising a notch in the first edge of the at least one side wall at the score line.
  5. The package of claim 1 wherein said recloseable feature extends from the first edge of said side walls to the second edge of said side walls.
  - 20 6. The package of claim 1 wherein said recloseable feature has side edges wherein said side edges of said recloseable feature are integrally sealed to said side edges of said side walls.
  7. The package of claim 1 wherein the first side wall and the second side wall are formed from a single piece of film and are connected together on a first side of the package via a fold.
  - 25 8. The package of claim 7 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on an opposite end of the pouch from the recloseable feature.
  9. The package of claim 7 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on the same end of the pouch as the recloseable feature.

10054286-1422804

10. A package for a product comprising:
  - a first side wall;
  - a second side wall wherein the first side wall and the second side wall are bonded together on edges to form a pouch having a space therein for storing a product;
- 5 a recloseable feature on an end of the package;
  - a sheath disposed over the recloseable feature wherein the sheath has a first end, a second end, and side edges, and further wherein a first end of the sheath is integrally attached to the side walls of the package; and
    - a score line in the sheath from a first edge to a second edge of the sheath wherein the score line traces a path from above the recloseable feature at the edges to below the recloseable feature between the edges when the pouch is oriented such that the recloseable feature is on a top side of the pouch.
- 10 11. The package of claim 10 wherein the recloseable feature is a recloseable zipper.
12. The package of claim 10 wherein the package is hermetically sealed on all sides.
- 15 13. The package of claim 10 further comprising a notch in the first edge of the package at the score line.
14. The package of claim 10 wherein said recloseable feature extends from the first edge of said side walls to the second edge of said side walls.
15. The package of claim 10 wherein said recloseable feature has side edges wherein said side edges of said recloseable feature are sealed to said side edges of said side walls.
- 20 16. The package of claim 10 wherein the first side wall and the second side wall are formed from a single piece of film and are connected together on a first side of the package via a fold.
17. The package of claim 16 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on an opposite end of the pouch from the recloseable feature.
- 25 18. The package of claim 16 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on the same end of the pouch as the recloseable feature.
- 30 19. A package for products comprising:

a pouch comprising side walls having a seal on all sides to form a space for retaining a product;

a recloseable feature disposed near one of the sealed sides of the pouch wherein the recloseable feature is sealed to inside surfaces of the pouch and further wherein the side

5 walls extend over the recloseable feature; and

a score line in at least one side wall from a first edge to a second edge of the at least one side wall wherein the score line traces a path from above the recloseable feature at the side edges to below the recloseable feature between the side edges when the pouch is oriented such that the recloseable feature is on a top side of the pouch.

10 20. The package of claim 19 wherein the recloseable feature is a recloseable zipper.

21. The package of claim 19 wherein the package is hermetically sealed on all sides.

22. The package of claim 19 further comprising a notch in the first edge of a side wall at the score line.

15 23. The package of claim 19 wherein said recloseable feature extends from the first edge of said side walls to the second edge of said side walls.

24. The package of claim 19 wherein said recloseable feature has side edges wherein said side edges of said recloseable feature are integrally sealed to said side edges of said side walls.

25. The package of claim 19 wherein the side walls are formed from a single piece of film and are connected together on a first side of the package via a fold.

26. The package of claim 25 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on an opposite end of the pouch from the disposable feature.

27. The package of claim 25 wherein the recloseable feature is disposed near an end of the pouch and further wherein the fold is on the same end of the pouch as the recloseable feature.

28. A method of making a package comprising the steps of:

providing a first wall and a second wall;

scoring a score line in at least one side wall;

30 providing a recloseable feature attached at a first end of the side walls;

attaching the recloseable feature to inside surfaces of the side walls; and.

sealing the first wall and the second wall together on edges of the walls to form a pouch having a space therein for a product,

wherein said score line is disposed above the recloseable feature at edges of the side walls and further wherein said score line traces a path to below the recloseable feature between the edges of the side walls.

29. A method of making a package comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of a flexible film material;

providing a score line in the sheet of flexible film material;

sealing a first side of a recloseable feature to the flexible film material;

10 folding the sheet and sealing the sheet on side edges of the sheet to form a pouch having a space therein for a product wherein the pouch has an open end;

sealing a second side of the recloseable feature to the flexible film material;

filling the pouch with product; and

sealing the open end of the pouch,

15 wherein the score line is disposed in the sheet of flexible film material from a first to a second edge of the pouch wherein the score line traces a path from above the recloseable feature at the edges of the pouch to below the recloseable feature between the edges of the pouch when the pouch is oriented such that the recloseable feature is on a top side of the pouch.

20 30. A method of using a package comprising the steps of:

providing a package comprising a pouch having a product contained therein wherein said pouch has a recloseable feature on an end of the pouch and further wherein side walls of said pouch extend over the recloseable feature and further wherein said pouch has a score line disposed in the package from a first edge of the package to a second edge 25 of the package wherein the score line traces a path from above the recloseable feature at the side edges of the package to below the recloseable feature between the side edges of the package; and

tearing said package along said score line to gain access to said pouch.